BREWSTER KALEIDOSCOPE SOCIETY

NEWS SCOPE

A newsletter for designers, collectors and lovers of kaleidoscopes

Vol. 24 No. 2
Spring 2009

Kaleidoscope Reflections 20

BKS Platinum Anniversary Convention in Santa Clara, California

June 11-13, 2010

Finally! Time for a celebration! After a year of transition and a year of global economic chaos, the gods are smiling on the Brewster Kaleidoscope Society's twentieth anniversary convention, *Kaleidoscope Reflections 20*. Scheduled for June 11-13, 2010 (with artist and retailer meeting June 10), this convention will be well worth the wait. Of course, we will include all the activities that you love: from the unveilings, to the showroom with tables for artists and retailers, to breakout sessions and classes, to our gala dinner dance and closing breakfast. Moreover, there will be special demonstrations and additional events in response to your preferences, based on an upcoming survey to be completed by mid-2009.

Kaleidoscope Reflections 20, our Platinum Anniversary Convention, will be at a beautiful venue, the Hyatt Regency Santa Clara, with amazing room rates and excellent travel access, in a very special part of the country. Santa Clara is located near San Jose, California, with easy access from both the San Francisco and San Jose airports. Room rates for single or double occupancy will be an amazing $112 per night, before, during and after the convention.

As ever, we are looking for your ideas and recommendations. And more importantly, if you'd like to volunteer, we'd love to hear from you. If you have a program you would like to present, let us know. The schedule and registration details are in the works.

Circle the date, enter it on your PDA, lock it into memory: this is THE event for the entire BKS family. June 11-13, 2010: a time for renewal, reunion, rejoicing, and rejuvenation.

The Brewster Kaleidoscope Society Mission Statement:
The Brewster Kaleidoscope Society is a unique organization which provides a forum for artists, collectors, and retailers to promote and perpetuate kaleidoscopes as an art form.

BKS Membership Update
Mary Theresa Boll, BKS Membership Coordinator

As of March 1, 2009, the Brewster Kaleidoscope Society membership has grown to 440 members (411 domestic and 29 international). The membership consists of 126 artists, 55 retailers, 256 collectors, 2 suppliers, and 1 library. Twenty two new members have found the BKS though our website, www.brewstersociety.com. We thank the retailer promotions at Nellie Bly, Reflections Gallery, and Designs in Shell for attracting 50 new members! Since January 2009, one new member each has discovered the BKS though Scott Cole's and Laura Wilde's kaleidoscope classes and Cozy Baker's books.

We encourage everyone to become ambassadors for the BKS. Please email me (mboll@adelphia.net) the addresses of any interested persons, and I will be happy to send them an invitation to join or rejoin. The BKS also has a special "New member promotion for retailers", please email me for details.

Ordering a kaleidoscope? Going on vacation? Have a question for an artist? Check out the BKS website for contact information of member artists and retailers.

If you are not listed on the website and wish to be, please send in your information by following the links on the artist's and retailer's pages.

Sadly, the kaleidoscope community has lost two devotees: Joseph Strauss of Ohio and Beverly Sebastian of Arizona. They will be missed by their many kaleidoscope friends.

I recently received a delightful letter from BKS member Joyce Wiese, who has recently moved to La Crosse, Wisconsin to be near her 2 daughters and 2 grandsons. She says that she "misses her kaleidoscope friends and the BKS conventions, but she still enjoys her kaleidoscopes." She has been keeping busy with family and friends and has also given six kaleidoscope presentations in La Crosse. Way to go, Joyce! She recently renewed her BKS membership for two years and finished by saying "I have many blessings at age 92. Best wishes to all my kaleidoscope friends." Best wishes to you too, Joyce.

BKS Eastern Regional Meeting : May 2 - 3, 2009

at the home of Sharon and Nels Sandstrom (collectors) Wake Forest, NC

Saturday : 10am – 5 pm (Fee to cover lunch on Saturday TBD)
Sunday : Meet at a restaurant for brunch

Artists – Bring your latest scopes to show off or scopes to sell
Collectors – Bring scopes for swapping with others
Retailers – Come and join us
Everyone - Bring your favorite or most unusual scope to share

RSVP : Sharon Sandstrom sharonsands@msn.com
or phone 919-453 -0066

The Brewster Kaleidoscope Society
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Damascus MD 20872
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NEW PASSWORD

To access the Members Only Section on www.brewstersociety.com
Username: bksmember
Password: 2009scopes

Ad Space Available

We invite you to take advantage of the expanding newsletter to:

- *Extend your marketing*
- *Target a select audience*
- *Promote your artwork*
- *Promote your gallery or store*

For more information contact:
Charles Karadimos
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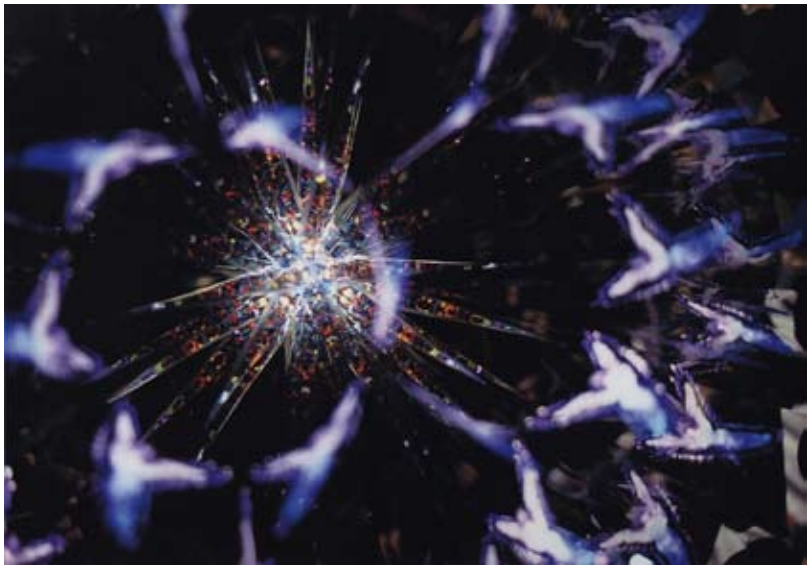
Ad rate sheet available at
www.brewstersociety.com/join.html

"Got an idea for a cartoon?...send it to Wiley at usjobes@aol.com"

Cozy's Column

The Kaleidoscope: A Sacred Connection

A new dawn is always breaking inside a kaleidoscope There are some who experience a sacred connection as they view the kaleidoscope through inner mirrors of the soul. They see each image as a link to the Divine Mind and hear God's voice in the silent language of color. Whether it is a few moments of clarity or a realization of oneness, they interpret the unfolding mandalas as messages of love and beauty; feeling as well as seeing the radiance within. Listening with an open heart enables one to discover that each kaleidoscope is a little world unto itself where one can keep dreaming dreams, hear silent music, feel wondrous harmony, find inner peace and calm, experience oneness, reflect on beauty repeating itself over and over again, and realize that for each ending there is a new beginning.



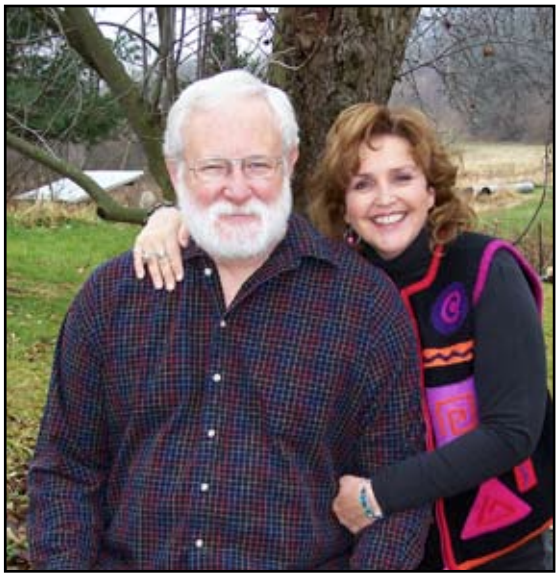
"Star Angels" image by David Sugich

Kaleidoscope
SHOP
has a brand new website
www.kaleidoscopeshop.com

Please check us out.
If you'd like to talk to us, call us toll-free at 877-525-3436 or email us at wescope2@gmail.com. If you are interested in a scope you don't see on our website, let us know and we will do our best to find it for you.
Jan and Bobby Boal

Featured Artists : Steve and Peggy Kittelson

This month we are pleased to highlight Steve and Peggy Kittelson. They have graciously agreed to answer some questions about themselves and their work.



Would you like to share some background with us?
Steve and I have been working with stained glass since the 1970's; we merged our glass businesses in 1987. We were creating stained glass windows, mirrors, gift items and fused glass jewelry. We met Steven Gray at the Minnesota Renaissance Faire. He asked us to make some fused glass wheels for two of his scopes and encouraged us to make our own scopes, which we did within a year and discovered collectors, Cozy Baker, and galleries.
Our first endeavor was a wheel scope with fused glass wheels and stained glass laminated against the mirror. When we began making kaleidoscopes it was as if we were drawn into a new world.

What has influenced your scopes? And do you have any favorites?
We use nature quite a bit for design ideas and have found good ideas hidden inside fabric patterns. Architecture and ancient civilizations are also great sources for inspiration. At times collectors or gallery owners give us a path to consider. The Landscape Kimonos were a major influence on Peggy for both color composition and texture. The most challenging thing is to translate our vision into the format of the style we have developed.
Peggy has a difficult time settling on a favorite scope, but really enjoys the challenge of flame-sculpting the pieces for the limited edition pieces such as the Flower series, "Great Balls of Fire", and "Mystic Resolution". Steve's favorites are "Mystic Rapture", and the newest, "Mystic Resolution".

Can you tell us about the processes involved in making a scope?
Our basic glass scope is made by cutting a rectangle of stained glass, then balancing it on a mold, firing in a kiln, and cooling slowly to room temperature. The two halves are ground to fit together, copper foil tape is applied to the edges and the halves are soldered together to create the scope barrel.
On the flower scopes the flowers are cut from glass and are fused together first before being put on the barrels for two trips in the kiln. Some of the flower components are flame-sculpted in the torch to create a more life-like appearance.
On the scopes with dichroic glass at least four trips in the kiln are needed. First the design is cut out of the various glass, assembled on a base glass, usually black, and then fired. The second firing completely fuses the design into one piece and one level. On the back side, which is solid black, there are bumps and ridges that need to be ground away. After grinding, the panel is again fired to smooth the surface. The final step is to size the panel for slumping over the molds and fire one last time. These steps take at least 4 days of firing per scope.

What's next for you?
We are currently designing a sculptural scope for a bicycle trail incorporating the history and memorabilia of trains. We are developing a series of smaller sized flower scopes in singles and multi-blooms. We have been developing a commemorative kaleidoscope, particularly for weddings.

What advice do you have for someone starting out at this point?
Make the best scope you can, experiment with concepts, pay attention to the quality of the image, and if you want, solicit input from others.

Thank you, Steve and Peggy for helping us to better appreciate your scopes.
The next issue of *NewsScope* will feature Arny Weinstein in the Artist's Column.

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The Rainbow Connection

submitted by Bob Ade

A little rain shower just passed in front of us across Puget Sound and we are briefly enjoying a rainbow out our window. Wow, what if you could put that into the object box of a kaleidoscope! ----Oh! That's right, you can. It's called polarization.

Polarized light for scopes was actually studied by Sir David Brewster almost 200 years ago. I learned about it from a presentation by kaleidoscope artist Earle McNeil in 1994 at a BKS regional meeting in Seattle organized by collector Cheryl Leppla. Earle's polarized scopes inspired me to apply the technique to some of our scopes as well. Thank you Earle!

"How does it work?", and "What's going on in there?", are common questions. What's happening with polarization is similar to rainbows or prisms; when light is bent passing through certain materials, a spectrum of colors is created. The angle of the bend determines the resulting color.

Certain plastics bend light passing through them at locations that have been stressed during manufacturing. Examples are clear rigid carry-out food containers, plastic cups and tableware, CD boxes, Scotch packaging tape and clear bread bags. The flexible bags have to be stressed first by stretching pieces of it.

Looking at these materials, you won't see colors until you place them between a pair of polarizing filters. Lenses from polarized sunglasses work but with either type, one lens or filter must be rotated 90 degrees to the other. When rotated, you will notice that no light comes through the filters until you place a piece of the plastic material in between. Then the bent light coming through the material appears in the shape of the piece. The colors vary depending on the thickness of the material and the angle of the piece to the light. Where the molecules of the plastic have been stressed, the light is bent. Architects and engineers use this same principle to study the stress in bridge and building designs by using plastic models and viewing them between polarizing filters.

Polarized light scopes should be viewed against a good light source, daylight being the best. The background of the image will be black in places where there is no material in the cell. The images will vary from geometric to feathery depending on the selection of material used and the manipulation that has been done by the artist.

The top picture is just a plastic plate and spoon. The bottom picture shows the effect of polarization. Black and white does not show the resulting effect, so visit the Members Section of the BKS website and download the color version of the newsletter.

Kaleidoscopic Dreams

Dear kaleidoscope lovers,

My name is Colby Kauk and I have recently fallen in love with kaleidoscopes as well and want to share them with the world. I am attempting to build a giant walk-in teleidoscope at "Burning Man" this year and am looking for funding. Please check out my web site at ***kaleidoscopicdreams.com*** *for more details. Also you can help support the project by simply joining my facebook group called "Kaleidoscopic Dreams".*

Thank you and happy kaleidoscoping!

For Sale or Trade

Kaleidoscopes from a
12 year old collection,
plus
KALEIDOSCOPE RELATED BOOKS
and PUBLICATIONS

Limited editions, handhelds, antique scopes, of collector quality. We've highly enjoyed the scopes that have come and gone over the years and still love the scopes we've retained. We'd love to talk to you about trading or passing on some of our treasures into your home.

Please write or email:
Vince Cianfichi
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Moscow, PA 18444
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Scherer Gallery is pleased to present a unique collection of Estate Kaleidoscopes. The collection represents the finest of artistic ingenuity and design executed by the highly skilled hands of top artisans.
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Collector's Story

submitted by Linda Given of Joie de Vivre

When you operate a gift store that sells lots of different things, you meet collectors. They collect flamingo items, wind-up toys, rubber ducks, and yes, of course, kaleidoscopes. If I ask "how many do you have?" answers vary. One person might say "oh, six or seven," another, "I can't really remember." In the early 1980's, not too many people really knew what kaleidoscopes were. I frequently found myself saying "pick it up and rotate the end." It was fun to see how excited people got as they experienced their first version of a grown-up scope. It made sense - these handmade scopes were worlds away from the mass produced cardboard scopes they remembered. One afternoon I saw a woman looking at our window display. She walked in asking "what are those things?" and walked out with a bag holding four. They were all fairly inexpensive, but for my new business, it was a very exciting sale. A few days later I spotted her outside the store looking at the window again, holding one of our bags. My heart sank as I imagined what she was going to say. She had been too impulsive, regretted her purchase, wanted to return them. We had a no cash refund policy and as she entered the store I had already nervously started arguing with her in my head. "I'm sorry, but we just can't . . " She put the bag on the counter. "Remember me? I bought these here the other day." I waited. "I was hoping I could trade two of them in for some of the more expensive ones I saw." I brightened. "Of course!" I replied. She became my biggest collector, returning for another half dozen in the next two weeks and eventually buying one of just about everything we carried. Several years later she invited me to her home to have dinner and a viewing - she was buying from other sources as well by that time. I went, curious to see them all, wondering how they would be displayed. Imagining a gallery-like atmosphere, well lit glass cases lining the walls. I was taken aback to see her amazing collection - all over the house; sitting on the floor, the few glass cabinets bursting with scopes, even one or two peeking out from under the living room couch. At least a Craig Musser parlor scope had its own pedestal to sit on! And despite the odd displays, we spent a wonderful evening looking through them and discussing our personal favorites. As the years went on, her passion abated and we saw her less frequently. It almost seemed she had forgotten our evening together. "I love this but have so many, I don't know where I'd put it," she'd say as she looked through our newest selections. "You have to have the space for them," I'd agree, wondering if maybe she had managed to get them all arranged. And now I have a visual aid: when a collector of anything says to me "I've kind of lost track" I picture her home. . . . I know just what they mean!

"Got an idea for a cartoon?...send it to Wiley at usjobes@aol.com"

Projected Wonders:
What is happening in Japan

submitted by Junko Aragane

In February 2009, there was a unique kaleidoscope show as a part of the Nagano Lantern Festival which is held every year as a winter Olympic memorial in the city of Nagano, Japan.
Zenkoji Temple is a very famous historical landmark of Nagano and all the buildings in and around this huge temple and roads to it are illuminated with lights and lanterns. Dating from the 7th century, and storing what it believed to be the first Buddhist statue to arrive in Japan, this very traditional Japanese style building is the location of the exhibition. A projection kaleidoscope show was held in one of the satellite temples. This temple has a kaleidoscope gallery in the same building and its owner asked Mitsuru and Yuriko Yoda to produce an exhibition of projection kaleidoscopes in a spacious room of this temple.

Mitsuru and Yuriko Yoda are well known for their beautiful kaleidoscopes of contemporary styles equipped with a variety of electronic features. They have been developing projection kaleidoscopes since 2006 and as they say, they are still improving step by step.
For this kaleidoscope show, Mr. and Mrs. Yoda created several different projecting schemes - images are projected to Tatami (mat) floor, gilded folding screen, table top, sliding paper doors, balloons, hanging screens and even to a stone garden lantern. Many people visited this event and were fascinated with a very unusual experience in a temple surrounded by projected wonders.

What is new and unique with the Yoda's projection kaleidoscopes are their size. Each one is so small, it can be handled and carried easily with one hand. It is very eco-friendly because it needs only a little electricity to lighten up both the room and people's mind. The Yoda's projection kaleidoscopes are real kaleidoscopes with liquid-filled cells which automatically turn and create ever-changing images. They want the people to have a once-in-a-lifetime experience and share it with others.

There were many problems and difficulties to overcome in order to realize enlarged beautiful images in a big space or to be applied at different distances. One of the biggest problems was to make the best use of the light and at the same time to keep the liquid-filled cell unheated. The turning speed of the cell is also adjusted many times for the best view.

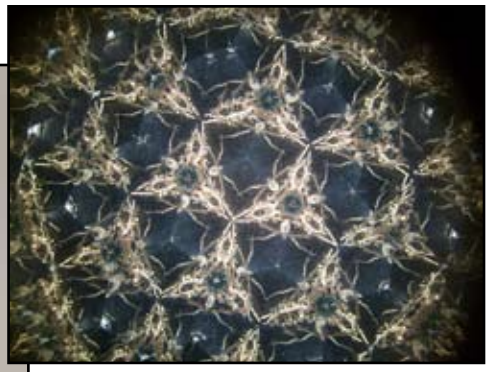
Having finished this event successfully, Mr. and Mrs. Yoda have already started to work hard for the next exhibition scheduled in March at the Sapporo Science Center in the north part of Japan.

Kaleidoscope Quilts:
The Art of Paula Nadelstern
at the American Folk Art Museum

Scintillating wheels, shifting ellipses, and colored fragments all sparkle in the dazzling quilts of Paula Nadelstern. Kaleidoscope Quilts: The Art of Paula Nadelstern is the American Folk Art Museum's first one-person exhibition highlighting the work of a contemporary quilt artist. On view from April 21 - September 13, 2009, the exhibition presents Nadelstern's innovative and complex designs inspired by the bilateral symmetry of kaleidoscopic images.

Senior curator Stacy C. Hollander has selected 19 quilts and 12 kaleidoscopic quilt blocks that reflect the constantly shifting color, light and pattern in Paula Nadelstern's textiles. The invention of the kaleidoscope by Sir David Brewster in 1816 had a profound impact on 19th century quiltmaking. To illustrate this historical context, the 1835-1845 Sunburst Quilt by Rebecca Scattergood Savery in the museum's collection is included in the exhibition. The approximately 2,900 diamond shapes that form an ever-increasing star radiating from its center is a direct response to the revolutionary visual effects introduced by the kaleidoscope.

Rare examples of kaleidoscopes by Brewster and the 19th century American Charles G. Bush from Cozy Baker's collection will also be on view. Contemporary kaleidoscopes by Henry Bergeson, Charles Karadimos, Steve and Peggy Kittelson, Sue Rioux, and Marc Tickle will be installed in the exhibition for visitors to look through.



Artist : **Alex Bouteneff**
Scope name : *Lighthouse scope*
One of a kind
Mirror system : three mirror
Object case : plexiglass and lamp parts, containing rootlets, lichen and other small plant parts
External features : Simple brass tube. The top of the object case unscrews, so that any pieces can be inserted. Background color can also be changed.
Dimensions : 10” x 1.5”

Artist : **Jacqueline Bardner Smith**
Scope Name : *Lotus Garden*
One of a kind
Mirror system : 36 degree/5 point star
Object case : Hand chosen bits and pieces and beads
External features : Hand sculpted polymer clay including detailed sculpted display stand
Dimensions : 1.5” W X 8.75” L
Suggested retail price : $600

Scoops on Scopes

Artist : **David Kalish**
Scope Name : *Soft Cell*
Open Edition
Mirror system : 3-mirror
Object case : Hand painted silk
External features : Brass or Satin nickel tube with turned wood eyepiece.
Dimensions : 7.5” x 3.5” x 2”
Suggested retail : $98.00

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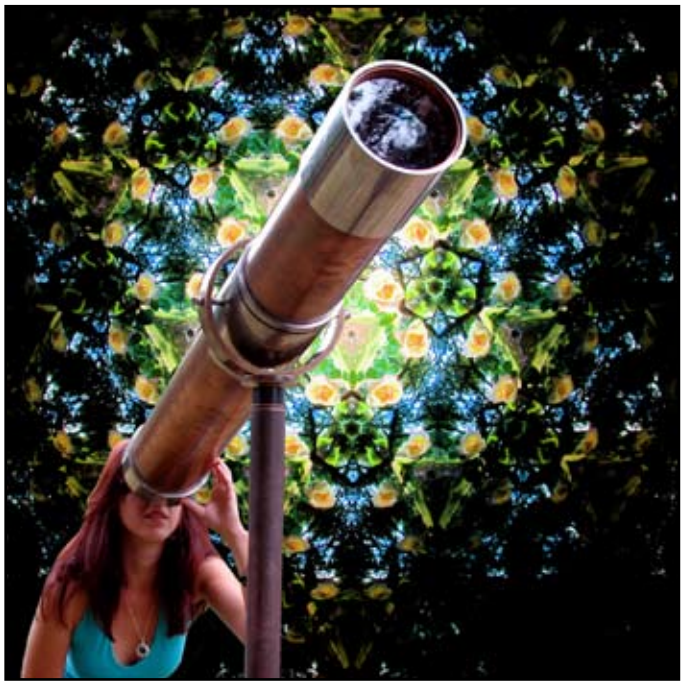
A color version of the newsletter is available for download at www.brewstersociety.com in the Members Only Section.

Artist : **Marc Tickle**
Scope Name : *Peek-a-Box, Optical Illusion Magic Box*
Open Edition
Mirror system : 2 mirror kaleidoscope and one mirror optical illusion with inclusion
Object case : Liquid filled, clear or black backed
External features : Appears to be a shadow box with insect, but it is actually an optical illusion, the bug having the appearance to float in midair, and a mind bending surprise when one actually discovers that a kaleidoscope actually exists within the same space.
Dimensions : 10” x 3” x 3”
www.onreflection.com

Artist : **Charles Karadimos**
Scope Name : *Dichro Mini*
Open Edition
Mirror system : 2 mirror, 8 point, very intricate images
Object case : Dry, miniaturized lamp-worked glass and glass beads, treated dichroic background
External features : Slumped patterned dichroic glass
Dimensions : 4” L
www.Karascopes.com

Artist : **Charles J Sorg**
Scope Name : *Variation on a theme #4*
One of a kind
Mirror system : Two mirror system producing a 12 sided image
Object case : Dry image wheel containing manipulated glass.
External features : Fused and slumped glass
Dimensions : 12” H x 8.5” W x 4” D

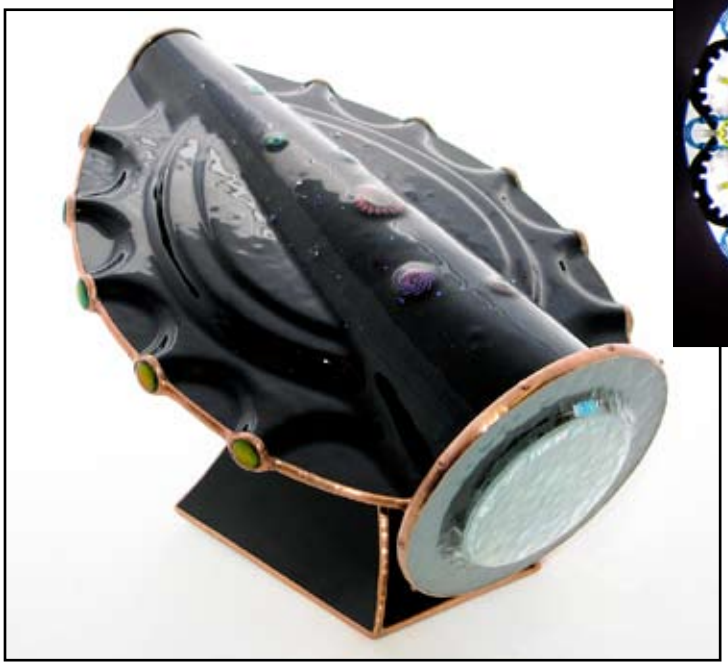


Artist : **Gregg Payne**
Scope Name : *Giant Teleidoscope*
Limited Edition, by private or public commission.
Mirror system : three 5” x 42” first surface stainless steel mirrors, with curved cut ends to match sphere.
Object case : 6” Austrian crystal spherical lens. Optional attachable object case.
External features : Copper tube. Stainless and brass hardware.
Dimensions : 5’ T x 6.5” diameter x 4’ L.
Suggested retail price : $10,000 – $50,000. Private collections or public integration with art in public places project.

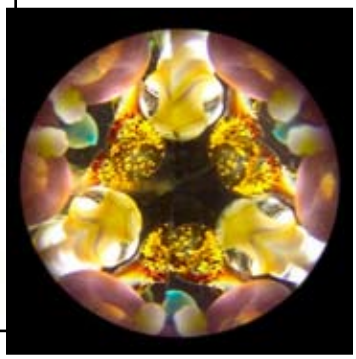
Artist : **Donna L. Messina**
Scope Name : *Dolphin Surfers & The Temple*
One of a Kind
Mirror system : 2 mirror and 3 mirror
Object case : oil wand
External features : *Dolphin Surfers* has a tidal wave stand. Both of the scopes are constructed with a combination of mirrored, textured, and iridescent glass and soldered with lead free solder. Both have glass magnifiers.
Dimensions : 9.5” each

Artist : **Martha Radford**
Scope Name : *New Orleans*
Open Edition
Mirror system : two mirrors, five or six pointed star
Object case : dry or liquid
External features : stained glass
Dimensions : 6.5” L x 2” W x 4.5” T
www.kaleidoscopestudios.com

More Scoops



Artist : **Charles Karadimos**
Scope Name : *Odyssey*
Limited Edition of five
Mirror system : 2 mirror, 10 point
Object case : Slumped glass, dry, lampworked glass, fused glass beads, hand cut glass,
External features : Multi-dimensional slumped and fused glass,
Dimensions : 16” L x 12” W x 11” T
www.Karascopes.com



Artist : **Kari Makoutz**
Scope Name : *Yukki*
Open Edition
Mirror system : 2 Mirror
Object case : Hand blown glass oil filled with flamework and ampules
External features : Mica infused polymer
Dimensions : 8” long

•• Attention Members ••

If you have been receiving emails from us over the last few months, great.

If you have not, that means we do not have a current email address for you. Please email bksinformation@brewstersociety.com with the current information. Special messages are sent throughout the year by email only.

Correction: We wish to correct a mistake from page 9 of the Winter 2009 NewsScope. *Vitrigraph Grand Wizard* by **George Bear** was listed as being 3.75” in length. The correct length is 13”. Sorry for the error. Please visit www.glassfusers.com for more information about his other scopes.

Kaleidoscope Specialty Shop: Mukashi-kan Owner's Point of View

This is the first part of a 20 page essay written by Miti Araki. The rest of the essay can be read in the Members Section of the BKS website.

The drama of a kaleidoscope is that once you turn it, the same pattern never appears before you twice.

Can it be that I, a spellbound dweller of the world, have acquired the means to experience the ever-changing world in its ever-changeability? All too often we are too hasty in our perceptions of phenomena, and all too often we are left only with ambiguous impressions.

But if we are to dedicate ourselves to absorbing the dazzling world a kaleidoscope etches out before our eyes, it will surely nurture the five senses inherent in us.

And what will this nourishment of our five senses bring? No less than the widening possibility for interaction and communication with all elements. In the beginning, only a scope or two could be summoned to our minds from the word 'kaleidoscope specialty shop.' There was no telling what lay ahead of us, but we knew the signboard of our shop would cause a sensation and proclaim our presence to the world. We endowed the kaleidoscopes with our vast hopes. Kaleidoscope Mukashi-Kan, a kaleidoscope specialty shop, came into being in 1994.

We are burdened with a history of depending on money to unify every value and energy.

We pay or sometimes do not pay, money, to assert ourselves as the arbiters of absolute values, and as such, we believe we are the kings, the judges of this world. But in an odd sense, even if we are oblivious to these facts, we may be feeling god's existence behind it all through our unconsciousness.

The greatest creation of mankind, the invention of the genius, is none other than god, none other than money; a truly ingenious creation becomes a bible accepted by all without any need for conscious manipulation. Even in the long-beloved fairy tales such as Grandfather Cherry Blossom, The Sparrow's Inn, or Cinderella, a story never ends with just the introduction of honest or hard-working characters, but has also got to have coins and castles.

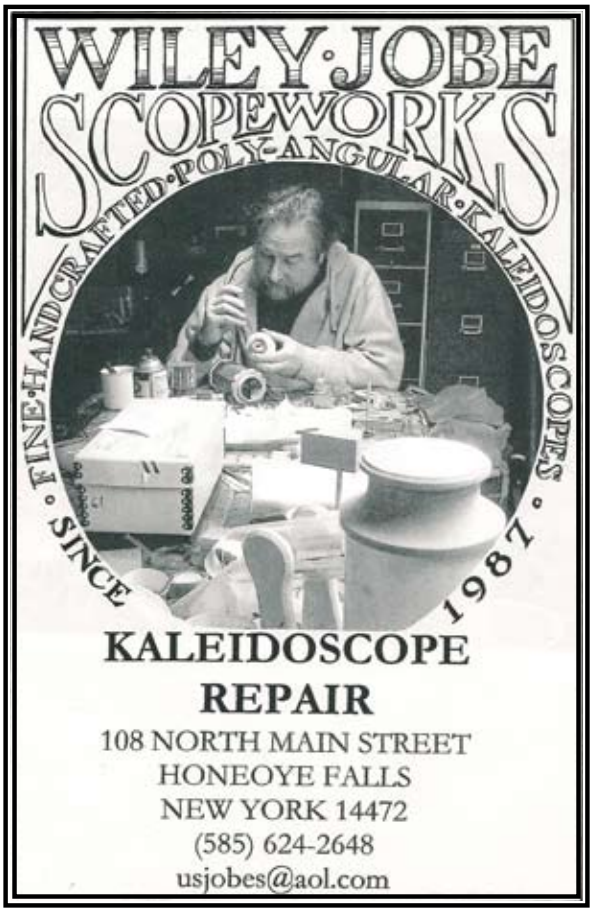
The crucial point here, however, is that maybe all such stories are only serving to dull our sensibility and shrink the world of our own creativity.

We have used money for eons past. We have brought countless things and discarded countless things. Each time, we swear we will not be fooled and try to make full use of our discretion and wit. But each time, our resolve is shattered with laughable ease by our urge to purchase (all things made available by money). After all, when we consider how the monetary system has flourished and functioned worldwide throughout the long history of mankind, it is understandable for us to remain clueless in the presence of the almighty, and we should not grieve too much even if something we have worshipped from our heart fails to give us any reward.

With the majority of people already having a certain amount of experience and knowledge under their belt, there seemed no object left for everyone to share, offer or purchase on an equal basis; it is not an exaggeration to say that our kaleidoscope specialty shop has materialized to satisfy people's dreams.

Our customers will all come armed with a formidable wealth of experience. Given enough stimulation, they will scrutinize every item in the shop from corner to corner, top to bottom, inside and out. Such will be my awareness and assumption as the owner of the shop. My motto is to place one magnifying glass and one microscope in every home.

Let's see if I can start by showing people the way we turn and shake a kaleidoscope is the way we seek to recover the patterns and mechanisms fallen apart in our minds.



"Got an idea for a cartoon?...send it to Wiley at usjobes@aol.com"

R Scott Cole
Tips and Techniques Specialist

Mirror discussions are usually focused on angles and configurations, or the quality of the mirror itself. But there are other practical considerations in working with the mirror during construction. Most scope artists have evolved a set of techniques that work for them, and it is intriguing how diverse these can be.

Many of our early kaleidoscopes used mirrors wrapped with masking tape that fit tightly inside the scope body. It is easy to think that using the largest (widest) possible mirrors for a particular scope would make sense in that it would maximize the amount of light available to the eye and that they would be affixed securely. There are several pitfalls with this technique.

1. Strength. While masking tape is flexible, repositionable, and inexpensive, it also dries out within months and eventually detaches from the mirror
2. Durability. If the mirrors are tight, the seams are vulnerable. Drop the scope and the mirrors are likely to crack.
3. The shadow phenomenon. The edges of the scope body add shadows to the image, especially if the light enters from an angle, or if the mirrors are recessed.

These issues are easily remedied. To provide greater strength, use another tape such as duct tape or aluminum tape with more permanent adhesive, applied over the masking tape. This has the added benefit of holding the mirrors in place if they do happen to crack.

To minimize the chance of the mirrors breaking through rough handling or natural disasters, it helps to make them slightly smaller than necessary to fit inside the body. This allows for some kind of cushioning to be added. Felt, styrofoam (peanuts or sheet, though the S-shaped peanuts or the biodegradable ones will deteriorate), or even extra wraps of duct tape can provide protection. This is still a pressure fit , so care must be taken to avoid stress on the mirrors. Although it seemed like a good idea at the time, I don't recommend the expanding foam in a can. Hot glue, however, can be used as it will fill gaps and hold the mirrors in place.

Making the mirrors smaller also lessens the shadows, as long as the edges are centered. Three mirror scopes are particularly susceptible to this, especially those with object cells, but any image can have shadows. If the object cell is very deep, it is difficult to avoid the shadows. But then, shadow and light is another metaphor for how life imitates the kaleidoscope.

Scott teaches many classes throughout the year ...
See the back cover for dates.

CLASSIFIED AD

If anyone owns a Baseball or a Hockey Puck teleidoscope made by Brett Bensley, please contact him as soon as possible. They will be marked Copyright 1998, 1999, or 2000. Contact him at bdbensley@eiu.edu, or write him at 306 W. Pierce Ave., Charleston, IL 61920

Alice Houser
Featured in *Our State* Magazine

In their March issue, North Carolina's *Our State* magazine featured kaleidoscope artist Alice Houser, who has been designing and selling kaleidoscopes for over 18 years. In the article, Alice details how her Queen Anne's Lace Kaleidoscopes are made, as well as providing insight into her background and motivation.

In addition to the magazine article, a gallery of step-by-step photos of the scopes' construction was provided on the Our State website.
http://www.ourstate.com/web_exclusives/web_exclusive2.asp

The unique craft of Alice fits well with mission statement of *Our State* magazine: "Here at Our State, our mission is to reflect the beauty of North Carolina, to tell the stories of its amazing people and its remarkable history, and to suggest wonderful places to visit. We are unabashedly in love with the Tar Heel State, and every page is designed to be a tribute to where we live."

More information on Alice's kaleidoscopes can be found at www.kscopes.net.

Kaleidoscope Stands

Hand blown Glass
Each one unique
Prices start at $40

Contact Alex at 860-567-9893
or
e-mail: bootnf@optonline.net

Regional Meeting : Kaleidocon West

Twenty six kaleidoscope lovers gathered in Northern California on March 14-15 at the home and studios of Tom Durden and Judith Paul of Images Kaleidoscopes (imagessf@aol.com). Although they shared a lunch, dinner and then brunch on Sunday mostly they talked and viewed scopes. “Show and Tell” tables encouraged everyone to bring some special things - and let everyone else enjoy them. Penny Wardlaw (Phwardlaw@aol.com) was especially generous in sharing part of her collection. Tom did a mirror demonstration, Judith a cell making workshop and many participated in the mandala cookie making. Karl Schilling won the “Name that Necklace” contest, identifying 30 of 33 mini scopes from Judith’s collection. Corki Weeks wowed everyone with her newest sculptural creation, Karl and Jean brought wonderful little party favor scopes to share, and all enjoyed viewing each other with a perfect little 2 mirror teleidoscope Cozy sent.

From as far away as Iowa (Karl and Jean Schilling - kaleidosocopestoyou.com) and Arizona (Mary Wills and Sally Dryer - nbscopes.com), from our most experienced collector (Pat Seaman - p-sea@comcast.net) to our newest Brewster member (Colby Kauk - kaleidoscopicdreams.com) everyone saw a weekend of their lives in a mandala.

Presenting

"THE HYPOCHONDRIAC"

Experience an entirely new way to *take your medicine.* The object cell contains real pills and capsules suspended in mineral oil. To carry out the theme a metal caduceus, (ka-du-sis), the symbol of the physician, appears both in and outside the scope.

You may find that the visions created by this dance of drugs has a mesmerizing effect which is both calming and exhilerating at the same time. Most people find that viewing a fine kaleidoscope simply makes them feel "much happier", and *no prescription is necessary.*

WARNING: Kaleidoscope gazing can be addictive and there is no known cure!

Chromascopes by David Kalish

2808 Burton Drive
Oakland, CA 94611
510-531-6331
dk@chromascope.net
www.chromascope.net

Suggested retail: $90

"Got an idea for a cartoon?...send it to Wiley at usjobes@aol.com"

Cats & Dogs ……. and Kaleidoscopes?

submitted by Nellie Bly

Back in 1992, Mary Wills was a relative newcomer to the historic mining town of Jerome, AZ, population 400. It became immediately apparent to this animal lover – and owner of the famous Nellie Bly Kaleidoscope shop in Jerome – that the population of sick feral cats and un-neutered dogs rivaled that of people.

A small effort was already ongoing, with a few fundraising donation cans placed around town by a longtime Jerome resident. However, the need was much greater than this beginning could address, and the Jerome Humane Society was born, with more concerned citizens raising money to spay and neuter. However, animals had to be taken to facilities outside of Jerome, and the group was determined to somehow get a vet to Jerome. Enter Virginia Kennaway, first spotted at Nellie Bly with a Canadian friend – a kaleidoscope collector - shopping for a scope. After they left the shop, Mary Wills realized their conversation revealed that Virginia was a full-fledged mobile veterinarian working out of Phoenix. The ever-resourceful Mary tracked down the friend, via her kaleidoscope purchase receipt, in Canada. Finally, discussions began with Dr. Kennaway, who agreed to make a "house call" to Jerome once a week.

The original group operated out of Mary's apartment, with triage in the kitchen and recovery in the bathroom (with approval from the Veterinarian Board). Eventually, the Town of Jerome donated a basement space in the old elementary school, now Town Hall. It was in terrible shape, but with $16,000 donated by TV

Rescued tabby cat named Corki Weeks - looking pensive (left) and Dr. Virginia Kennaway with a gift kaleidoscope made by Sue Rioux - called KAT (right)

(continued on page 15)

Featured Collector : Robert Shupe

In 1990, my life changed. I discovered kaleidoscopes. Hi, my name is Robert Shupe. I work for Milwaukee County in the Retirement Office and, through my work, enjoy dealing with the public and especially the elderly. Having kaleidoscopes at the office always makes my day.

A number of years ago, Judith Paul wrote about 7 Levels of Collecting. I am now showing signs of being a Collector of the Fifth Level. While I have not taken out a second mortgage on my home to indulge in my collecting, the current economy has caught my attention. Some people look at this stock market crash and the resulting losses in their portfolios. I look at it in terms of kaleidoscopes lost. All that money gone that could have bought more and more scopes.

Art Fairs are always fun and I would buy things people would call different. One artist showed me a piece that was not only different - but it captured me. This was a kaleidoscope that had magic. After a few purchases, I began to travel progressively further from my home to find kaleidoscopes and to take classes in making kaleidoscopes. During a class in Minnesota I learned about the Brewster Society and soon after had an opportunity to meet some of the kaleidoscope artists. You guessed it, next stop San Diego - my first Brewster Convention.

I started to bring my kaleidoscopes to work to share with my co-workers. Soon, my kaleidoscopes filled two large desk drawers and there were 2 large kaleidoscopes on my desk. Construction work at my office forced me to bring my collection home. A 7' curio cabinet with 7 shelves was their new residence. Whether at work or at home when someone asks what "it" is, I will show them one scope then another and another. If they are still there when I reach for the third scope, I know they are hooked. By the way, you may have already guessed, that curio cabinet is now filled - stuffed actually - and I still have kaleidoscopes at work.

My collection numbers over 120 and contains many artists - some are one time tries and others include the must-haves. The scopes are wood, metal, ceramic, plastic, and alabaster. Oil cells out number other types. I even have a binocular scope with a dry flower cell and three scopes that are over 20" tall.

Sometime we should have a contest for the strangest tales about traveling with kaleidoscopes. I have had a suitcase checked for explosives by wiping a cloth over the zipper. Another time an airport security person was looking at a scope after removing the socks used to protect it. Before too long her coworkers came to see these magical kaleidoscopes. The lines at the security check point grew….just like my kaleidoscope collection.

Hope to see everyone at the next Brewster Convention - I have found a large, empty drawer.

Cats & Dogs …. and Kaleidoscopes?

(continued from page 14)

personality Bob Barker's Foundation, they started renovations and bought some basic equipment. Now, since the donation of lots of time and money and many very successful fundraising events, the veterinary office is the envy of other practices.

The main focus of the operation is still to neuter, spay and vaccinate, with special attention paid to feral animals. Take Randy Knapp – a diseased, feral female cat captured after 3 years of trying, only after leaving out food laced with tranquilizer. She is now healthy and receives yearly vaccinations – when she can be caught! There are several feral cats now named after kaleidoscope makers, and you can also find Janice Chesnik, Frank Casciani, Cozy Baker, and even Henry, Henry Jr. & Henrietta Bergeson. This might be the place to tell you that the most beautiful long-haired cat was Corki Weeks, with Sherry Moser being the most cute and sleek.

Note: Lots of work goes in to taming these feral cats, and most have successfully found homes. However, there are always the incorrigibles, like Randy Knapp!

Continued in the next issue……

2009 Schedule of Events

April 21 - Sept. 13: Kaleidoscope Quilts: The Art of Paula Nadelstern. American Folk Art Museum, 45 W. 53rd St. NY City, NY. 212-265-1040. www.folkartmuseum.org (see page 7 for more information)

May 2 - 3: Brewster Eastern Regional Meeting, Wake Forest, NC home of Sharon and Nels Sandstrom (collectors) Saturday – 10 am –5 pm (Fee for lunch on Saturday TBD), Sunday – meet at a restaurant for brunch
Golfers – There is a great course in our neighborhood ... http://www..playheritagegolf.com/golf/proto/heritagegc
Hotels in Wake Forest: Sleep Inn -12401 Wake Union Church Rd, Wake Forest, NC 919--556-4007
Hampton Inn – 12318 Wake Union Church Rd, Wake Forest, NC 919 554-0222
Holiday Inn Express – 11400 Common Oaks Dr Raleigh, NC 919 570-5550
(see page 2 for more information)

May 8 – June 7: Reflections Kaleidoscopes … 2nd Annual Kaleidoscope Show – 'Kaleidoscope Odyssey - New Face of the Kaleidoscope.' Runs for the month of May, with Opening Reception, during Mendocino's 2nd Saturday Gallery Walk, Saturday May 9. Artist and Collectors welcome. New Artist works encouraged. Box 1103, Mendocino, CA 95460, 707-937-0173, info@reflections-kaleidoscopes.com

July 17 - 18: Stowe Craft Gallery 8th Annual Kaleidoscope Festival. Artists and Collectors welcome. Stowe, Vermont. Details on www.stowecraft.com

2009 Teaching schedule of Scott Cole (scott@laughingeye.com ... 828-837-6103)

May 1-3	John C Campbell Folk School	Brasstown NC	Skills
10-16	John C Campbell Folk School	Brasstown NC	Skills
September 20-26	John C Campbell Folk School	Brasstown NC	Skills
October 3	Spruill Center for the Arts	Atlanta GA	Introductory
3	Spruill Center for the Arts	Atlanta GA	Intermediate
November 20-22	John C Campbell Folk School	Brasstown NC	Skills

Classes are usually full, so be sure to register early.
Special advanced projects can be arranged during most intermediate or skills classes, contact Scott.
For registration information, please contact the sponsoring organization:
John C Campbell Folk School 800-365-5724
Spruill Center for the Arts 770-394-3447

THE BREWSTER KALEIDOSCOPE SOCIETY
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